

2 an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external  
3 port having at least one external port contact.

1           18. The handheld computer of claim 17, wherein the accessory device is an  
2       input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3       port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4       slot.

19. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the first and second  
accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1           20. The handheld computer of claim 19, wherein the retaining device is a  
2 notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1           21. A handheld computer, comprising:  
2            a housing having a midframe, the midframe forming part of an exterior of the  
3            housing, the midframe having a first and second accessory slots associated with a left  
4            and right sides of the midframe, respectively, the first and second accessory slots  
5            being elongate and capable of receiving and accommodating at least one removable  
6            accessory device;  
7            a front shell coupled to a front side of the midframe; and  
8            a back shell coupled to a back side of the midframe.

1        22. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second  
2 accessory slots partially enclose the accessory device along substantially a length of  
3 the accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an  
4 exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the length of the accessory  
5 device

1           23. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein a bottom of the housing  
2 is flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1           24. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory slots are  
2 substantially cylindrical.

1           25. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a  
2 stylus device.

1           26. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a  
2 cover device.

1           27. The handheld computer of claim 21, further comprising:  
2           an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external  
3           port having at least one external port contact.

1           28. The handheld computer of claim 27, wherein the accessory device is an  
2           input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3           port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4           slot.

1           29. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second  
2           accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1           30. The handheld computer of claim 29, wherein the retaining device is a  
2           notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1           31. A method of manufacturing a handheld computer, comprising:  
2           providing a housing capable of substantially enclosing a plurality of  
3           components;  
4           forming a first elongate accessory slot on a left side of the housing; and  
5           forming a second elongate accessory slot on a right side of the housing,  
6           wherein the first and second accessory slots are capable of receiving and  
7           accommodating at least one removable accessory device.

1           32. The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots  
2 partially enclose the accessory device along substantially an entire length of the  
3 accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an  
4 exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the entire length of the  
5 accessory device.

1           33. The method of claim 31, wherein a bottom of the housing is flared out  
2 and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1           34. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory slots are substantially  
2 cylindrical.

1           35. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a stylus  
2 device.

1           36. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a cover  
2 device.

1           37. The method of claim 31, further comprising:  
2           forming an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the  
3 external port having at least one external port contact.

1           38. The method of claim 37, wherein the accessory device is an  
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4 slot.

1           39. The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots  
2 each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1           40. The method of claim 39, wherein the retaining device is a notch which  
2 mates with a detent on the accessory device.